



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Norfolk District

Buckroe Beach



FACT SHEET

October 2003

Phase 2. Ordnance Study To Begin

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin the second phase of the ordnance investigation at Buckroe Beach in early November. This phase of the investigation will include approximately 19 acres of public beach from Pilot Avenue to the former fishing pier and will extend from the edge of the boardwalk out to waist deep water at low tide. This follow-up effort is being conducted as an additional safety measure before the 2004 beach replenishment project.



Ordnance field crews will begin by testing their geophysical equipment on site (also referred to as the geophysical prove out). The crews will be using the same type of field equipment as they used during Phase 1 this past spring. Once the equipment has been properly calibrated, the field crew will begin the ordnance investigation at the beach in early December. The investigation is expected to take 6 to 8 weeks and will be completed by the end of January. Field crews will be using the best ordnance detection and removal technology available.

Findings From Phase 1

Prior to the 2003 beach season, eleven ordnance items were removed by the Army Corps ordnance experts during Phase 1 of this investigation. These 40 mm and 75 mm ordnance items were found more than 30 inches below the surface. All were deemed to be inert (containing no explosive material) and removed safely. Forty-five of the 114 investigation grids were cleared of ordnance. In all, the crews flagged and excavated 605 anomalies (buried objects) that were identified by the magnetometers.



75mm and 40mm
ordnance items found

No ordnance items were found on Buckroe Beach during the 2003 beach season!

What Is Ordnance?

Ordnance refers to military ammunition, components, or explosives.



76mm anti-aircraft projectile (12"x3")

Why Is This Necessary?

This effort is being conducted to ensure public safety at Buckroe Beach. The Environmental Protection Agency requested that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers respond to four 76mm ordnance items that were found by local metal detector hobbyists in the summer of 2002 at Buckroe Beach. The military ordnance was buried in 12 to 18 inches of sand in shallow water. The ordnance items resemble large bullets and are approximately 12 inches long and 3 inches in diameter. A 1990 beach replenishment effort is believed to have inadvertently dredged offshore sand containing the ordnance from an area that was previously used for military training. The ordnance items found were used during World War I and II for coastal defense but are no longer used by the military.

Immediate Safety Measures & Restrictions

U.S. Army Corps ordnance experts conducted a site visit at Buckroe Beach following Hurricane Isabel. The team visually inspected the beach from Pilot Avenue to the groin south of the former fishing pier between the seawall and the water's edge at low tide. They also used magnetometers to inspect areas where ordnance had been found last spring. No ordnance items were detected by the Corps or the City of Hampton during their cleanup effort at the beach.

In the event that an ordnance item is found on the beach this winter, the City's park personnel will secure the area and notify the fire department and the Army Corps. The Corps will coordinate with the City, and other members of the interagency team to respond immediately.

The city has prohibited digging deeper than 6 inches on the beach and the use of metal detectors until



the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can complete the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis study of the beach.

Long Term Safety Efforts

At the conclusion of the Phase 2 follow-up investigation, the Corps will conduct a study (referred to as an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis) to summarize the ordnance findings to date, to address any remaining risk, and to develop safety measures to prevent future occurrences of ordnance on Buckroe Beach. The Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) study is scheduled to begin in March 2004. A public meeting to discuss the EE/CA is scheduled to be held in May 2004.

Safety Tips:

Treat any suspect item with caution. If you encounter a suspect item:

- **Do not touch it, move it, or disturb it!**
- Note the location of the item.
- Call 911 to report it.
- Contact a lifeguard or park ranger (if present) to secure the area.

Public Information

Information on this project is available for public review on the U.S. Army Corps project web site (<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Projects/Buckroe/buckroe.html>) and in the Administrative Record which is located at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District.

The interagency team will keep the community informed throughout this effort using a variety of methods such as signs on the beach, the project web site, civic association briefings, mailings, public meetings, and media updates.

Public cooperation is essential to the success of this effort.

Agency Coordination

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is coordinating this effort with the city of Hampton, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

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